



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

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Federal Agencies Mapping N.C. Beaches Following "Dennis" Destruction

Scanning 5,000 data points per second, a NASA aircraft flew over the beaches of North Carolina Thursday, Sept. 9, surveying changes from Hurricane Dennis' pounding of the shore for more than a week.

The P-3 aircraft was equipped with a NASA laser topographic mapping instrument to develop detailed maps of the coastline. "Using this technology developed to map polar ice sheets, the laser can map in a day what would take more than a month using traditional surveying methods," said Bill Krabill, NASA project scientist at Wallops Flight Facility.

In addition to the NASA flights, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducted aerial photography of the area and land surveys to verify the laser results.



While Hurricane Dennis may be little more than a soggy memory in most areas along the East Coast, scientists are at work trying to learn from the storm and how it changed the landscape in Virginia and the Carolinas.

That knowledge will help local planners and emergency managers prepare for the next storm and mitigate against future damage – making communities safer for everyone.

The mapping effort is part of a national beach survey project being undertaken by NASA, the USGS' Center for Coastal Geology, St. Petersburg, Fla., and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Services Center, Charleston, S.C.

In addition to storm damage information, NOAA processes the data and supplies it to state coastal management programs, which then use the information to establish setback lines and determine annual erosion rates.

"Ultimately, we want to be able to provide sound, scientific data to local officials, who can then tell people how far back they should set structures or where they shouldn't set them at all,"

said USGS oceanographer Abby Sallenger. "For years, man has repeatedly built too close to the shore. At the least, we can provide the data to make sure that any new developments are put in safe and sensible locations."

Krabill said, "We have extremely detailed data of these beaches from previous flights dating back to 1997. Using the data from the NASA instruments, federal and state officials will be able to accurately and widely access the damage caused by this tropical storm."

A baseline data mission was conducted in October 1997 and a data flight also was conducted following Hurricane Bonnie in August 1998.

The mapping effort is being accomplished with the NASA Airborne Topographic Mapper flown at an altitude of 1,500 feet. The laser collects 5,000 spot elevations per second as the aircraft travels over the coast at approximately 371 feet per second. Using the laser and a Global Positioning System receiver on the aircraft, researchers are able to survey the beach elevations to an accuracy of four inches.

Further information on the NASA topographic mapper and coastal mapping can be obtained at the following web sites: <http://aol.wff.nasa.gov/aoltm/projects/beachmap>
<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/text/beach.html>
<http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/lidar>
<http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/research/scarol.html>

Goddard Team:

On Thursday, Sept. 9, the House of Representatives voted on the bill that funds the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, to include NASA. This bill does represent significant cuts that could cause devastating blow to Earth and Space science research, technology investments and eventual economic harm to our area. That's the bad news.

As disappointing as this vote is, I am aware of strong support from our community, elected officials, academia and associated organizations. I am hearing voices that say that halting our progress now is a recipe for disaster. These same voices echo the scientific and technological achievements and the need to pursue these today and in the future.

The action now moves to the Senate, where the Senate Appropriations for VA, HUD and Independent Agencies subcommittee will prepare a bill and carry out its markup in the next few weeks. I am encouraged to hear that despite this vote, we have not seen the final outcome. I am confident that we will see a budget closer to the President's request, restoring funding for those programs and projects vital for Goddard, NASA, and the Nation. I will keep you posted as I learn of changes in the status of budget actions.

Al Diaz



Mission Success Starts with Safety

Safety In-Service Day September 23

Mark your calendar now for the entire day - Sept. 23. This is a day designated by the Center Director dedicated to raising safety awareness and establishing center-wide safety efforts to reduce and eliminate workplace hazards.

You can participate by working with your team or organization in a variety of activities aimed at improving the safety of your work environment and mission.

Everybody will be involved. The Center Director requests all employees spend the day ensuring that Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) is a safe place to work. As safety is an integral part of our mission, the contractors will participate as part of their normal GSFC assignment.

NASA is dedicated to providing a safe and healthy workplace free from recognized hazards. It is important to identify hazards so corrective actions can be implemented.

Safety In-Service Day activities will take place right in your own shop or office, led by your supervisor or project/team leader. Everyone benefits. By helping to provide a safe and healthy work environment you benefit directly, as does your family, friends and coworkers.

Wallops Shorts.....

Wallops Fire Department

Fire Department personnel responded with airbags on Sept. 11 to the scene of a collapsed building in New Church to assist in the rescue of a trapped victim.

Later on Sept. 11, Wallops Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) responded to a mutual aid request for assistance with a medical emergency on Main St., Chincoteague.

Wallops EMTs responded to a mutual aid request for a medical emergency on Sept. 13 in Withams.

World Title Welterweight
Boxing Match

Oscar DeLaHoya

vs

Felix Trinidad



September 18
9 p.m.
Bldg. F-3

Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Fitness Club members get in free with a current gold club card.

There will be free fish dinners from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. First come, first served.

For tickets contact Bob Tittle, x1244; Roland Wescott, x1624; Pam Milbourne, x2020.



Safety Eyeglass Van

Safeware, Inc. has been contracted to dispense prescription and nonprescription safety eyeglasses at WFF once a month in their OnSite Eyeware van.

Dates: Sept. 17, Oct. 29, Nov. 19 and Dec.17

Time: 9:30 am to 11 a.m.

Where: Bldg. F-6, Parking Lot.

NASA civil servants who operate equipment or are involved in processes which present potential eye injuries from physical, chemical or radiation agents are eligible for this program.

While a wide selection of basic frames and lens options (tinting, scratch coating, bifocals, etc.) are available at no cost to NASA civil servants. Designer frames and progressive lenses may require a copay from the employee. Ask the OnSite Eyeware Optometrist about which frames and lens options require copay.

Upcoming Training

Supply System Training

Effective Oct. 1, 1999, the Gould Supply Ordering System will be replaced by the new web-based Automated Material Management System (AMMS).

Cortez III will be holding AMMS training classes in the Building E-2 Conference Room on Friday, Sept. 17 at the following times:

9 to 10 a.m.
10 to 11 a.m.
1 to 2 p.m.
2 to 3 p.m.

If you are responsible for ordering supplies for your organization you should attend one of the classes. Attendance at one of the sessions is recommended to familiarize users with the new system. For further information contact Ed Bohl, x1854.

System Safety Fundamentals
Training

The System Safety Fundamentals Course will be taught at Wallops Flight Facility. The course will begin at 8 a.m. on Oct. 25 and end at 4 p.m. on Oct. 29, 1999.

Personnel wishing to attend need to respond before Sept 24, 1999 in order to get the student materials printed and sent from the NASA Training Center in Houston. Contact Joe Drawdy, x1884 for additional information.

OCTOBERFEST

(FREE)

October 23
Noon to 5 p.m.

At the Wallops Ball Field

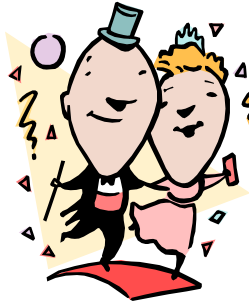


German Food,
Hot Dogs and
Beverages

Children's Activities
Music

Contact Bev Hall, x1714 or Gerry McIntire, x1889

Fiscal New Year's Party



(Instead Of A
New Year's
Eve Party)

With

Bennett Street Blues Band

October 1
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Bldg. F-3

Champagne, Hats and Noise Makers

Full Breakfast 12:30-1:30 a.m.

\$10 Per Person

Tickets are available from Sandy Gunter, x1454 or Pam Milbourne, x2020.

News From FedWeek
Health Insurance Premiums to
Rise

Premiums under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program are expected to rise an average 10%-plus in 2000. That would about equal 1999's average increase (10.2%). Of course, some premiums will increase, others decrease and some remain the same. The Office of Personnel Management, which administers the multi-billion dollar program, plans to announce the new rates in about two weeks.

22% of SES Members Female

Slightly more than 22% of senior executive service jobs were held by women as of Sept. 30, 1998, according to statistics just released by the Office of Personnel Management. The agency with the greatest percentage of female SESers is Housing and Urban Development, with 34.9%. Most are career appointments with more than 40% in administrative job categories, most work in the Washington D.C. area, and minorities hold almost 13% of SES jobs.

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